



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

5/35/017

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November 27, 2001

Mr. Kerry B. Nielsen, Project Architect
Special Projects Division, Temple Construction Department
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Eighth Floor
15 East South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-6330

Re: Reclamation Requirements, Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, Little Cottonwood
Granite Quarry, S/035/017, Salt Lake County, Utah

Dear Mr. Nielsen:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter dated November 5, 2001, addressed to Calvin Schneller of Salt Lake County. With this letter, you included copies of invoices for plant materials purchased to revegetate the granite quarry in Little Cottonwood Canyon. We appreciate you sending this information. The species you used are adapted to the site and after a few years should provide good vegetation cover.

In your letter, you said you are unclear and concerned about the three year period following restoration work for a site to be released by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Regulation R647-3-109.13.11 says:

Revegetation shall be considered accomplished when the revegetation has achieved 70 percent of the premining vegetative ground cover. If the premining vegetative ground cover of the disturbed area is unknown, then the ground cover of an adjacent undisturbed area that is representative of the premining conditions will be used as the standard. Also, the vegetation has survived three growing seasons following the last seeding, fertilization or irrigation, unless such practices are to continue as part of the postmining land use.

The purposes of this regulation are to ensure that the vegetation planted on a site actually becomes established, that it is adapted to variations in the climate, and that the soils can support the vegetation. Unless the Division approves a variance, this same standard is applied to all

Page 2
S/035/017
Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry
November 27, 2001

mines, most of which are in much more harsh environments than the Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry.

You also expressed concern about heavy use by individuals over which you have little or no control. We are aware of this problem and recognize that it may adversely affect your revegetation efforts. In our visit last July, it appeared most of the disturbance was confined to certain areas and that the majority of the site was unaffected. The overall vegetation cover is not reduced very much by a trail like what we observed during the inspection. When we evaluate the site for release, we will take this use into account. Although you have not approved recreation as a land use, people are obviously using the site for this purpose, and we will judge the vegetation based on the land use. If you observe problems caused by recreationists, please let us know so we can inspect the site and document any damage.

Thank you for your cooperation. I hope this letter answers some of your questions and alleviates your concerns. Please don't hesitate to call me at 801-538-5261 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PB Baker".

Paul B. Baker
Senior Reclamation Biologist

jb
cc: Calvin Schneller, Salt Lake County Planning and Development Services Division
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